Escape attempt by prisoners in Tihar Jail

*24. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:† SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently an attempt was made by prisoners to get away from Tihar Jail, Delhi by digging up a tunnel ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the attempt was foiled by the Tamil Nadu Special Police posted at Tihar Jail ;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the incident;

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against the persons responsible therefor ;

(e) what further remedial steps Government are contemplating to avoid recurrence of such attempts in future; and

(f) whether Government propose to amend the Jail Manual in view of the above incident ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Delhi Administration had appointed an Enquiry Committee comprising Addl. Dist. Magistrate (Hqrs.), Dy. Inspector General (Prisons) & Asstt. Commissioner of Police (IIIrd Bn.) D.A.P. The Committee submitted the Enquiry Report on 23-2-92 to the Delhi Administration.

(d) to (f) Information is laid on the Table in the statement.

Statement

The report of the Enquiry Committee is under detailed examination of the Delhi Administration after which appropriate action will be taken.

As a first step on receipt of the report, Inspector General of Prisons issued orders putting 1 Asstt. Superintendent, 4 Head Warders and 5 Warders under suspension. 3 Asstt. Superintendents, a Head Warder and 1 Warder have been issued notices to show cause as to why disciplinary action should not be initiated against them.

Recommendations made by the Enquiry Committee regarding remedial steps, will be considered for implementation to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future. However, immediately after detection of the tunnel on 28th January, 1992, the Inspector General of Prisons had taken the following steps:—

(i) Instructions have been issued to each Jail Superintendent to personally inspect each barrack/cell and ward in respect of his jail at least once every day and as a surprise check at least once in the night every week and submit the report of daily/weekly inspections in a prescribed proforma.

(ii) Frequency of searches at all level in each jail has been increased.

(iii) Steps are under way to make the security ring on all points more effective.

(iv) Officials upto the level of Assistant Superintendents who have completed more than 3 years in their present place of postings are being transferred to ensure proper rotation.

At present, there is no proposal to amend the Jail Manual.

श्री धूलेश्वर मीणा : सभापति महोदय, यह अफसोस की बात है कि बाहर निकलने के लिये 116 फीट की सुरंग बाथरूम से बनायी गयी । महोदय, 116 फीट की सुरंग बनाने में कम से कम 6 महीने से कम का समय नहीं लगा होगा । इससे आप इस जेल अधिकारियों की एफेसियेंसी देख सकते हैं जिन्होंने 6 महीने तक, जब से उन्होंने सुरंग की खुदाई शुरू की, वहां की विजिट नहीं की । 6 महीने के पश्चात् उनको पता लगता है । तो मैं समझता हूं कि इसमें अधिकारियों की मिलीभगत है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

*The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Dhuleshwar Meena.